Kan. Cong. Dist. No. 3
Larry Winn
Form 10-300 UNITED STATES
(July 1969) NATI

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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		[X] Excellent	☐ Good	☐ Fair	Deteriorated	Ruins	Unexposed	
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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Anderson county courthouse at Garnett is a rectangular three-story structure with a full basement. Approximately 102 feet long and 66 feet wide, the building is constructed of red brick laid in running bond with white mortar. The basement story, which projects partially above ground, is built of large rough hewn blocks of limestone laid in even horizontal courses. Limestone is used elsewhere on the building facades to accent windows, trim, and entrance features. A water table course of stone provides the transition between the stone base and the brick walls. The rectangular plan shape is broken at the four corners by semicircular towers and on the main facade by a slightly projected entrance feature.

The roof form is a steeply pitched hip roof of red clay tile with small gable roofs over the entrances on all four sides. The semicircular corner towers have steep cone-shaped roofs. The hip roof terminates in a flat center portion surrounded by a low railing similar to the captain's walk of coastal buildings. From the captains's walk, a square brick bell tower with a steep four-sided roof rises to an approximate height of 120 feet above the ground. The roof line of the main building and the bell tower is defined by an ornamental brick band with corbelled brick brackets uniformly spaced around the perimeter.

Windows on the first floor are simple rectangular openings with five-inch stone sills and massive rough cut flat stone lintels. The second and third floor windows are integrated vertically by a recessed spandrel. Second floor windows are rectangular with stone sills. Third floor windows have stone sills and semicircular brick arched heads. The windows are linked horizontally at the third floor by a rough stone belt course around the entire perimeter of the building. Semicircular stone trim above the brick arches provides further horizontal integration. The windows in the bell tower are similar to the main windows but scaled down. Clear glass is used in all windows except for those on the third floor which have stained glass.

The building entrances have been accented in several ways. Above each doorway is a fan-shaped window with a semicircular top. The entire entrance feature is surrounded by a wide semicircular arch of rough cut native stone.

A silver-painted statue depicting the Roman goddess Justitia stands on the gable roof over the west entrance.

Although the offices of county officials are in the same location as they were in 1902, various interior changes have been made over the years to accommodate growing need for office space as well as to modernize the building. A new slate roof replaced the old one in 1947, otherwise the exterior is believed to be original except for minor repairs.

The courthouse is in excellent condition and represents the best of George P. Washburn's Romanesque-styled Kansas courthouses.

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☐ 15th Century	17th Century	19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable	and Known) 19	02	
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☐ Prehistoric	Engineering	Religion/Phi-	Other (Specify)
Historic	☐ Industry	losophy	
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Originally the Anderson county seat was located at Shannon from March 1, 1856, to April, 1859, but an act of the 1859 territorial legislature designated Garnett the county seat. In 1861 the city of Garnett deeded to Anderson county 400 lots which were to be sold for \$100 each to raise funds to erect a courthouse. Evidently the money was not used for this purpose because construction of the present courthouse did not begin until 1901 and tax revenue was used. During the intervening 40 years, a building across the street west of the present location housed the county offices.

The new structure was built by Latimer and Benning, contractors, at a cost of \$75,000. By August 30, 1901, the basement had been completed and cornerstone ceremonies were held September 25, 1901. The courthouse was dedicated on Friday, July 4, 1902, with a crowd of 6,000 in attendance. On the following Monday the county commissioners had their first regular meeting in the new building. Plumbing and other minor jobs were still incomplete, however, and the building was not finished until late

In addition to its local political importance, the Anderson county courthouse has architectural merit. The building, which is well-preserved and in excellent condition, is a classic example of the Romanesque architecture of George P. Washburn, one of Kansas' most prominent early architects.

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